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Two species of *Blepharis* are mentioned as possessing a structure very similar to that of *Acanthodium spicatum*, differing chiefly in the smaller and more uniform diameter of the spiral cells, and in their thicker fibre, which is always single and loosely coiled.

The seed of *Ruellia formosa* on being placed in water develops from every part of its surface single short thick tapering tubes, within which in some case a spiral fibre is loosely coiled; whilst in others the place of the spiral fibre is supplied by distant rings.

In the seeds of *Ruellia littoralis*, *Phayloopsis glutinosa*, and *Barleria noctiflora*, the whole surface becomes covered with separate tubes, very similar in form, but destitute of spiral fibre, and terminating in a minute pore, from which streams of mucilage are discharged.

Those of several species of *Barleria*, *Lepidagathis*, &c. are entirely covered with long tapering simple hairs, which expand in water, and like the rest are enveloped in a thick coat of mucilage.

In all the foregoing species the hairs occupy the entire surface of the seed, and are usually directed towards its apex, though they occur often most abundantly at the edges; in others they are only found attached to a marginal ring of a different texture from the rest of the seed. This is the case in *Strobilanthus lupulina*. The seeds of many plants of this family are wholly destitute both of spiral cells or of any other appendages possessing hygroscopic properties, such for example as *Acanthus mollis* and *ilicifolius*, *Dipteracanthus erectus*, *Blechnum Brownii*, &c., *Ruellia secunda*, and several species of *Justicia* and *Eranthemum*.

TWEEDSIDE PHYSICAL AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

A Quarterly Meeting of the Tweedside Physical and Antiquarian Society was held at the apartments of the Institution, Kelso, Feb. 17th, when Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, Bart., the Society's President, occupied the chair. The attendance of Members was more than usually numerous. The donations which were announced as having been received by the Society, during the interval which had elapsed since the last Quarterly Meeting, were numerous, and many of them interesting and valuable.

Among those in the department of Botany and Zoology, were a collection of British insects, of the orders *Coleoptera* and *Lepidoptera*, amounting to several hundred species, systematically arranged, being the first instalment of a general collection, illustrative of the ento-

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From Mr. Plummer Johnston, Sprouston.—1st, specimen of Female Pintail Duck (*Anas acuta*); 2nd, Ditto, of Female Oyster-Catcher (*Hæmatopus Ostralegus*).

From Mr. John Rutherford, Kelso.—Specimen of Common Bunting (*Emberiza miliaria*).

From Mr. Wilkie of Ladythorne.—Twenty-two skins of foreign birds, of beautiful plumage.

From Mr. Murray, Corsbie.—White variety of Common Rook.

Other specimens of birds, &c. for preservation, were also received from Mr. Elliott Lockhart of Borthwickbrae, Mr. Wilkie of Ladythorne, Mr. D. M'Dougall, Cessford, &c. &c.

From Miss Makdougall, Makerstoun.—Specimens of a species of *Pinna* from Australia.

From Dr. William Scott, Milsington.—Various skins of birds, &c. from Hindostan.

The splendid contributions by Mr. Selby to the entomological collection of the Institution were also much admired, and warmly acknowledged by the Members present.

Dr. F. Douglas read to the Meeting a letter from Mr. Selby, containing the outline of a plan for sending abroad an experienced naturalist, with the view of making collections in the different departments of Natural History, to be afterwards transmitted to this country, and divided among a certain number of subscribers, who are to bear the expenses of the expedition; and requesting the Society to join as one of the partners in the undertaking. The Meeting felt compelled to decline this proposal, on the plea of its being attended with an expense too heavy for the present state of the Society's funds, which, besides, they considered as properly devoted to objects of a local nature merely; upon which, Sir Thomas Brisbane, with that zeal for science by which he has always been characterized, declared his wish to become a subscriber to the scheme in behalf of the Society, to the Museum of which he would cause to be handed over such objects as might be obtained. The Meeting acknowledged, in the warmest manner, this new proof of the liberality of their President; and Dr. F. Douglas was desired to communicate with Mr. Selby on the subject.

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